



THE DEMHS ADVISOR

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Issue 4

Commissioner Notes

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October has proven to be the wettest month on record. We at DEMHS are very proud of the efforts of the local emergency management directors, the chief elected officials, the police, fire, public works and the entire public safety team at both the local and state levels who did an outstanding job in dealing with the difficulties that were presented during this time. Governor M. Jodi Rell has been in contact with FEMA on behalf of the affected communities and we do expect that FEMA will be in state conducting an on-site damage assessment. Hopefully, both the local communities and the State of Connecticut itself will be eligible for aid related to the heavy rains.

In September Governor M. Jodi Rell, distributed a Home Preparedness Guide to the residents of the State of Connecticut urging them to *Be Aware and Be Prepared*. This booklet should be kept by every household in the state. The booklet is available via the DEMHS web site at www.ct.gov/demhs/guide and also at www.ct.gov/dph/guide. Please encourage your residents to keep this information on hand, perhaps maintaining it with their home first-aid kit or home disaster kit. This is an extremely valuable resource.

We believe that the residents of the great State of Connecticut are very concerned about emergency management and the impact that it has on their families. We also know and are committed to a strong public education campaign that assists all residents in understanding their individual responsibilities in any and all emergencies.

Take care and enjoy this issue of the DEMHS Advisor.

WHAT'S NEW:

October is

**National Breast
Cancer Awareness
Month**

**Cyber Security
Awareness Month**

UPCOMING EXERCISES:

October 26
CERRIT
Chlorine Drill

Floods and What You Should Know

Information for the Public

Know the Terms

Familiarize yourself with these terms to help identify a flood hazard:

Flood Watch:

Flooding is possible. Tune in to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flash Flood Watch:

Flash flooding is possible. Be prepared to move to higher ground; listen to NOAA Weather Radio, commercial radio, or television for information.

Flood Warning:

Flooding is occurring or will occur soon; if advised to evacuate, do so immediately.

Flash Flood Warning:

A flash flood is occurring; seek higher ground on foot immediately.

Take Protective Measures

Before a Flood

To prepare for a flood, you should:

- Avoid building in a floodplain unless you elevate and reinforce your home.
- Elevate the furnace, water heater, and electric panel if susceptible to flooding.
- Install "check valves" in sewer traps to prevent flood water from backing up into the drains of your home.
- Construct barriers (levees, beams, floodwalls) to stop floodwater from entering the building.
- Seal walls in basements with waterproofing compounds to avoid seepage.

During a Flood

If a flood is likely in your area, you should:

- Listen to the radio or television for information.
- Be aware that flash flooding can occur. If there is any possibility of a flash flood, move immediately to higher ground. Do not wait for instructions to move.
- Be aware of streams, drainage channels, canyons, and other areas known to flood suddenly. Flash floods can occur in these areas with or without such typical warnings as rain clouds or heavy rain.

If you must prepare to evacuate, you should do the following:

- Secure your home. If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture. Move essential items to an upper floor.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves if instructed to do so. Disconnect electrical appliances. Do not touch electrical equipment if you are wet or standing in water.

Floods con't

If you have to leave your home, remember these evacuation tips:

- Do not walk through moving water. Six inches of moving water can make you fall. If you have to walk in water, walk where the water is not moving. Use a stick to check the firmness of the ground in front of you.
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If floodwaters rise around your car, abandon the car and move to higher ground if you can do so safely. You and the vehicle can be quickly swept away.

Driving Flood Facts

The following are important points to remember when driving in flood conditions:



Six inches of water will reach the bottom of most passenger cars causing a loss of control and possible stalling.

A foot of water will float many vehicles.

Two feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles including sport utility vehicles (SUV's) and pick-up trucks.

After a Flood

The following are guidelines for the period following a flood:

- Listen for news reports to learn whether the community's water supply is safe to drink.
- Avoid floodwaters; water may be contaminated by oil, gasoline, or raw sewage. Water may also be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines.
- Avoid moving water.
- Be aware of areas where floodwaters have receded. Roads may have weakened and could collapse under the weight of a car.
- Stay away from downed power lines, and report them to the power company.
- Return home only when authorities indicate it is safe.
- Stay out of any building surrounded by floodwaters.
- Use extreme caution when entering buildings; there may be hidden damage, particularly in foundations.
- Service damaged septic tanks, cesspools, pits, and leaching systems as soon as possible. Damaged sewage systems are serious health hazards.
- Clean and disinfect everything that got wet. Mud left from floodwater may contain sewage and chemicals.

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Meet the DEMHS Coordinating Council

Over the next several months we will be introducing members of CT's DEMHS Coordinating Council. The Council is made up of 26 individuals appointed by the legislature. In featuring these members we will present to you the expertise these individuals bring to the Council and thank them for their commitment to the people of Connecticut.

Colonel Edward J. Lynch, CT Department of Public Safety

Colonel Edward J. Lynch was sworn in as the Colonel of the Connecticut State Police on May 3, 2004.

Lynch, 52 has been in the Law Enforcement field for thirty-four years. He is a U.S. Army veteran and served as a military police officer. He spent six years with the Farmington Connecticut Police Department and he currently is in his 25th year with the Connecticut State Police. During his tenure with the Connecticut State Police, Lynch has been assigned as Executive Officer of the State Police Academy, Commanding Officer of the State Police Response Team to the 1995 World Special Olympic Games, Commanding Officer of the Emergency Services Unit, Commanding Officer of both the Central District and the Western District, and as Lieutenant Colonel for the Office of Field Operations.

Lynch holds a Masters Degree in Management, with a certificate in conflict resolution from Cambridge College. He is also a 1994 graduate of the FBI National Academy, in Quantico Virginia and has completed the FBI National Executive Institute program in September of 2005.

The Connecticut State Police employs 1186 sworn officers and 478 civilian employees.



Col. Edward Lynch

Notes:

Identity Theft Impacts 10 Million People Each Year

Don't Be One of Them!

Minimize Your Risk: Don't give out personal information on the phone, through the mail, or on the Internet unless you've initiated the contact or are sure you know who you're dealing with. Order a copy of your credit report each year and check it for accuracy. Use hard-to-guess passwords on your computer and never share them with anyone. Shred bills, credit card statements or other documents with personal information before placing in the trash.

Know the Signs: Have you received credit cards you did not apply for? Been denied credit for no reason? Are you getting calls from businesses or debt agencies about goods you did not buy? Not getting your regular credit card bills in the mail? These are just some of the warning signs, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Take Action: Quick action can make a difference! Close the accounts that you know, or believe, have been tampered with or opened fraudulently. Contact all three credit reporting agencies and place a fraud alert on your accounts. File a report with your local police or the police in the community where the identity theft took place. File a complaint with the FTC by calling 1-877-IDTHEFT. Learn more about steps you can take to protect yourself and your family at www.consumer.gov/idtheft

October 2005 Is Cyber-Security Awareness Month - Learn How to Stay Safe Year-Round - Visit CT.gov/Cybersafe

URBAN SEARCH & RESCUE



In October of 2001 and in direct response to the events of September 11, 2001, Governor Rowland tasked the CT Dept. of Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security with creating within the state an Urban Search and Rescue Task Force. This task force was created with the mission “to provide a coordinated effort including necessary personnel and resources to locate, extricate and provide immediate medical treatment to victims trapped within collapsed structures.”

The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force is located at the former CT National Guard hangar, Brainard Airport, 269 Maxim Road, Hartford, CT. The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force consists of 140 members comprising two teams; 132* of the 140 positions have been filled. (*Includes 3 CT-DEMHS, 8 CSP Personnel & 3 Local Law Enforcement officers).

Their palletized equipment must be capable of airlift deployment to any destination within four hours of activation via C-130 aircraft or tractor-trailer units. This requires indoor storage of trucks and equipment that is within the capabilities of the facility.



This facility is also home to the State Police Aviation Unit, State Police Auto Theft Unit, Civil Air Patrol, USCG, and the Dept. of Public Health Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT). All members of the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force currently train at this facility.

The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force members have been developing procedures and training methods to bring the team up to the strict standards set by FEMA for Urban Search & Rescue consistent with existing National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards.

The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force capabilities will include rapid mobilization to assist with responses to natural or manmade disasters. The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional/multi-disciplinary volunteer Task Force with expertise in search and rescue, law enforcement, medical, technical and logistics, and heavy equipment and rigging.



The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force is a partnership between fire, police, emergency medical service and the private sector within the State of Connecticut.

USAR con't

Although the task force is not yet fully operational the following are examples of how the team can be utilized:

- Conduct physical search and rescue operations within damaged or collapsed structures
- Provide emergency medical care to injured disaster response personnel
- Provide emergency medical care to injured victims
- Provide reconnaissance duties - Assess damage, needs, and provide feedback to local, state and federal officials
- Access and shut off utilities to damaged houses or buildings
- Assess hazardous material surveys/evaluation of affected areas
- Conduct structural and hazard evaluations of government/municipal buildings needed for immediate occupancy to support disaster relief operations
- Stabilize damaged structures, including shoring and cribbing operations
- Provide specialized technical rescue capabilities for confined-space rescue, trench rescue, high-angle rescue, and hurricane,

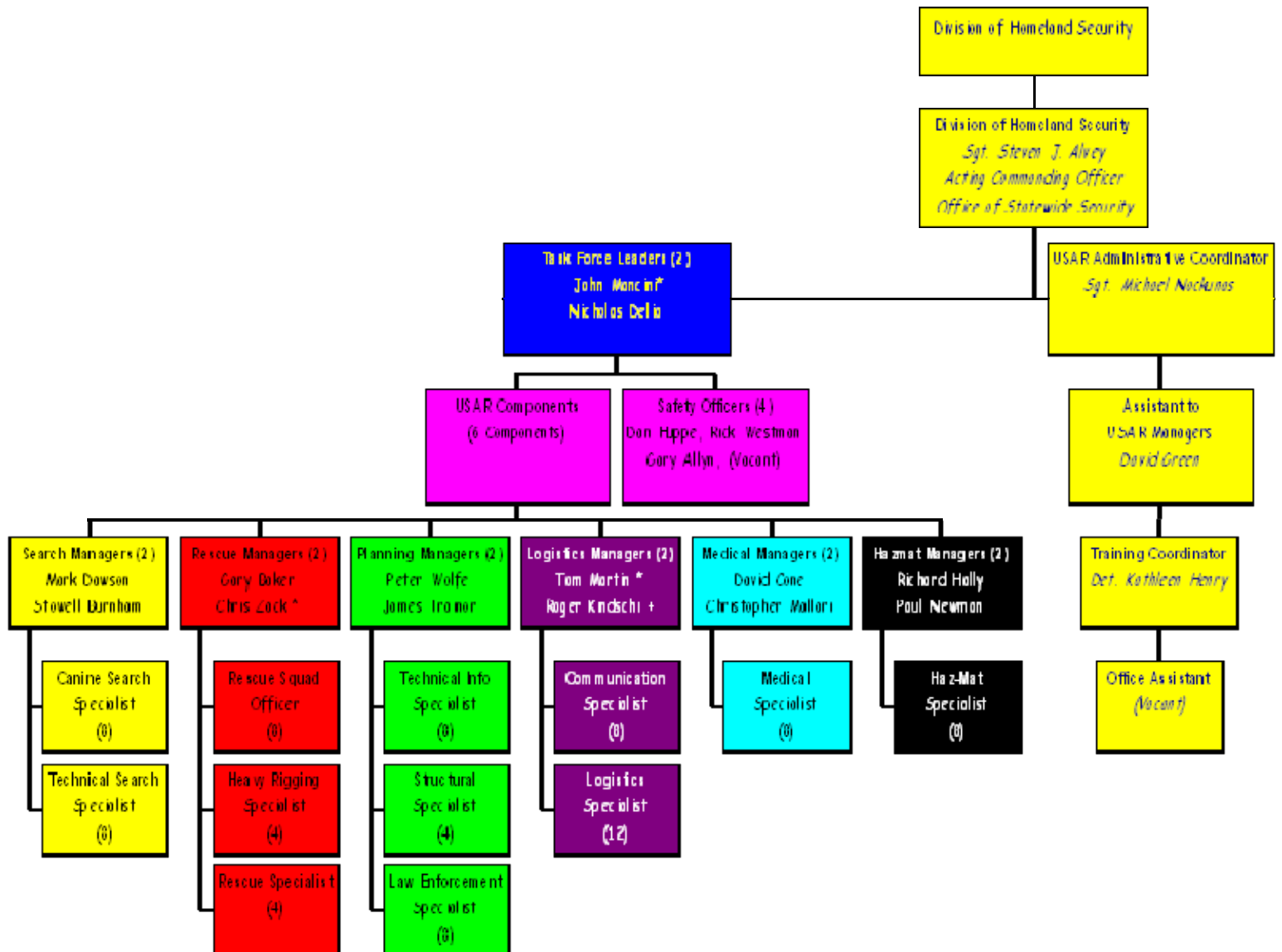


Currently the 132 person Urban Search and Rescue Task Force has: 1) The ability to respond as advisors/consultants to a large scale disaster and/or mass casualty incident; 2) the ability to respond and perform High Angle Rescue (incidents where roping techniques are needed); 3) The ability to respond with high tech search cameras and listening devices. It should be noted that currently there are no first responder rescue agencies in this state with these capabilities.

There are three permanent staff positions from local departments assigned to the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force which are being funded through stipends obtained through the Byrne Grant. These three staff personnel are responsible for all of the administrative, logistic, purchasing, and training functions related to the 132 person Urban Search and Rescue Task Force.

A fully equipped, operational Task Force consists of a cache of more than 16,400 pieces of medical, rescue, communications, technical support and logistic equipment weighing almost 60,000 lbs. Items must be stored, inventoried and calibrated while being ready for mobilization at any time. Upon deployment, this equipment becomes a mobile emergency room, construction site, communications center, high-tech engineering firm and camp for members of the Task Force.

USAR Organizational Chart



DEMHS Training Department

The Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) continually strives to bring a strong and diverse training program to emergency management professionals statewide. The funding and materials for this program come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

DEMHS is training professionals statewide through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute's "Master Exercise Practitioner Program". One of DEMHS' future goals will be to focus on conducting exercises at the local level. These trained exercise planners will work with local municipalities to schedule, develop and conduct exercises throughout the state to enhance our readiness.

DEMHS is also working closely with the Fire and Police Academies to use their state facilities to assist with the delivery of Incident Command and NIMS. Municipalities will be able to contact these academies for delivery of these classes to meet our state NIMS Compliance.

DEMHS is also the point of contact for all Office of Domestic Preparedness (ODP) training programs. ODP offers a number of specialized Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) classes, in state and out of state, for First Responders. Any individual or organization interested can view the ODP catalog on the DEMHS Grant web page. Also, anyone involved in emergency management can apply for courses sponsored by DEMHS. All applications must, however, meet the selection criteria for the respective course. Detailed information regarding each course is available by contacting the State Training Office.

Individuals with required prerequisites may also take courses at the Emergency Management Institute (EMI), in Emmitsburg, MD. EMI course information is available at FEMA's web site (www.Fema.gov) or contact the State Training Office for more information.

DEMHS training will soon be offering EMI's Professional Development Series of courses.

For full course descriptions, prerequisites and times and locations visit our website www.ct.gov/demhs and click on ***Check the Calendar***. For more information or to register contact our State Training Officer, **Paul Benyeda** at 860-256-0849 or email Paul at paul.benyeda@po.state.ct.us.